

ROS-LEHTINEN, CHARLES GONZALEZ, HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON and RALPH HALL. I introduced this bill requesting that the Administrator of General Services convey land to the Military Museum of Texas.

The Military Museum of Texas was formed to create, maintain and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The President of the Military Museum of Texas, Ed Farris, a former Marine sergeant, and a 22-year veteran of the Houston Police Department's motorcycle patrol and bomb squad, has worked tirelessly to preserve the memories of the men and women of the armed forces. They paid with their lives and their youth to ensure that the United States remains a free and prosperous nation. It is important that we support Mr. Farris and the board members of the Military Museum of Texas to honor and recognize the men and women, living and dead, who have served in the armed forces of the United States. The museum provides a way to hold them up as the heroes they are.

Mr. Speaker, our freedom is intertwined with the sacrifices of our Veterans, whose devotion to our way of life is unparalleled. I am privileged to honor their sacrifices and the role they play in our nation by introducing House Resolution 6510.

Our nation and veterans from the great State of Texas have a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, marine, and coast guardsman has a place of memory, pride and honor, in which the Military Museum of Texas provides.

Today, we continue to be engaged in hostilities in Afghanistan, and young men and women will pay the ultimate price while wearing the uniform of our nation. Let us honor the memory of the 4,400 Americans who have died in Iraq and more than 1,300 who have died in Afghanistan. We also honor the sacrifices of our wounded: nearly 32,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and 9,000 in Afghanistan.

Throughout the Military Museum of Texas, Americans will learn from the surviving World War II veterans to the veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes. Join me and support H.R. 6510. I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving.

Currently, there are 23 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,626,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. H.R. 6510 will allow Congress to express our appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Our nation is founded on the principles, laid out in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal," "that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," and "that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." At various points in our history as a nation, we have found need to send our sons and daughters, our most precious resources, overseas to fight in defense of these great principles. At times when the need is greatest, America's soldiers have always stepped up to protect our nation.

And so, today, I hope we will all take time from our daily lives to reflect upon the sacrifices made by those who serve in our armed forces, and to resolve together that we will provide returning veterans with the welcome, services, care, and compassion that they deserve—a Museum of reflection. As we consider H.R. 6510, let us all remember the one thing that makes our nation truly great are the young men and women willing to fight to defend it, to defend us, and to defend our way of life. Join me and support H.R. 6510.

Memories fade all too quickly, and we are losing about 1000 WWII veterans every day. It is important that we record and preserve the memories of these veterans so that future generations can understand the sacrifices of our veterans. The Museum is a place for preservation of military memorabilia, personal stories, artifacts and the history of past wars to remember American veterans and their sacrifices.

It is remarkably easy for succeeding generations to forget why we enjoy the freedoms we do in our country. The Museum seeks to educate the public about the sacrifices of our veterans that gave us those freedoms.

It is difficult for those who have not served in combat to understand the horrors our veterans endured and the trauma that still affects their lives. Veterans themselves conduct tours and convey their personal experiences to visitors.

The Museum provides a place where veterans can congregate and discuss their experiences, and in the process, heal. It also permits them to talk about their experiences with museum visitors.

Soldiers currently serving in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan need to know that the people back home in the great state of Texas support them. Volunteers at the Military Museum of Texas prepare and send care packages to troops who are serving overseas and are patients in military hospitals recovering from wounds. The Military Museum of Texas also hosts reunions, participate in parades and other events in the Houston, Texas area.

The Military Museum is a pillar in the community, and a benefit to schools, veterans and military related groups. It provides educational programs, live reenactments from military personnel as well as interactive exhibits. Furthermore, the Military Museum provides internships in military history and preservation, and a research database available for education and historical institutions and the public.

Let us continue to preserve and honor the memory of those who defend our freedom and liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6510, and ask for its immediate adoption.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 14, 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following: S. 1405—rollcall No. 628: "yea"; S. 3167—rollcall No. 629: "yea"; and H.R. 6510—rollcall No. 630: "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF LORRAINE DARWIN

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorraine Darwin for her outstanding contributions to Arkansas students. Lorraine's efforts in the classroom earned her the highest recognition that can be bestowed upon our Nation's kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers for outstanding teaching, the Presidential Awards for Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching.

As the Pre-AP Precalculus/Trigonometry and AP Calculus Teacher and the Mathematics Department Chairperson at Cabot High School in Cabot, Arkansas, Lorraine exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator. Her techniques to engage students in math and improve their understanding of this discipline have been noticed by her students, their parents and her colleagues.

Lorraine's teaching is held in high regard, one of 103 teachers chosen for this award and one of only 51 mathematics teachers. This truly is a major accomplishment in her career. Her passion for teaching not only helps her students, but also inspires those who work with her to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom.

I would like to offer my appreciation for the work of Lorraine Darwin and her determination to provide her students with the best math education as we work to keep America competitive in an increasingly high tech and science oriented global economy.

ON WELCOMING THE RELEASE OF BURMESE DEMOCRACY LEADER AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House resolution welcoming the release of Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest on November 13, 2010. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been imprisoned in Burma for 15 of the last 21 years. She was first put under house arrest on July 20, 1989, and was offered freedom if she left the country, but refused.